2 2 [illegible]

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director
[redacted]

THROUGH: Deputy Assistant Director for Oper[redacted]

SUBJECT: Inquiry by Major Donald E. Keyhoe [redacted]

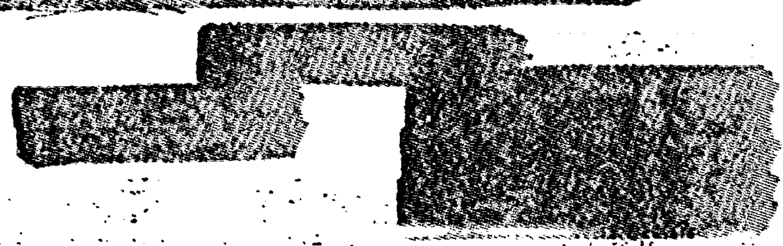
1. Apparently Major Keyhoe is persisting in his effort to find out if a CIA agent told witnesses of unidentified flying objects not to make public information about their sightings. As background the following is a quotation from his 13 March 1958 memorandum to the DCI:

"We also should like to know whether it is true that in one or more cases agents of the CIA have told UFO witnesses not to make public information in regard to their sightings?

"We have one report to the effect that a witness was interrogated recently about a sighting which involved a photograph and that he was peremptorily told not to make this matter public or reveal the fact that he had been interrogated by CIA representatives. If this is not true we should like to know, so that we can assess the value of any similar reports. If it is true - and the witness has said he can name the two CIA agents involved - then we should like to know on what authority he was ordered to keep silent. Since the Air Force states there is no security involved and I have personally been assured by Air Force officers and by high-ranking Naval Academy classmates of my own that I was in no way doing a disservice to the country by my own revelations, I am seriously concerned - as is our Board - with this apparent censorship. If it does exist, we should like to know under what laws, and by what authority, it has been established, and also the reasons for requesting witnesses to keep silent."

The 13 March memorandum was referred to the AD/O by the AD/SI for comment; a copy of our reply is attached.

2. In addition, [redacted] is a CD/OO staff employee assigned to [redacted]. On 12 December 1957 he contacted [redacted]


[redacted]

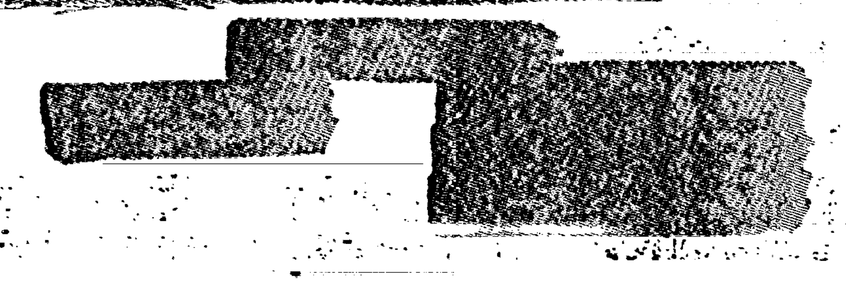
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE 24 Nov 75

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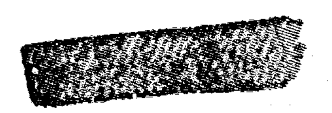
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[redacted] to return five photographs of alleged UFO's which were obtained, 7 November 1957, by [redacted] a CD/OO employee [redacted] in response to an OSI requirement [redacted]. While [redacted] was returning the photos [redacted] asked if he might mention on a TV program that an intelligence organization had viewed the pictures and thought they were of interest. [redacted] reply was negative. [redacted] then asked if he could write a letter to the DCI asking his evaluation of the photos and ask his permission to present the resulting material on TV. [redacted] replied that [redacted] would have to make his own decision about writing such a letter. This completed the interview.

3. We understand that [redacted] who has a reputation [redacted] as possibly being overenthusiastic about UFO's, is well and favorably known to Major Keyhoe, and therefore, we believe that [redacted] has disclosed his contact [redacted] to Keyhoe. If so, it appears that either [redacted] may have misinterpreted [redacted] remarks or that Keyhoe may have misunderstood [redacted] story, or a combination of the two.

4. Normally, since our field representatives are overt and carry credentials identifying their association with the Agency, we respond affirmatively to any outside inquiries. In this case it seems that Keyhoe, [redacted] wants [redacted] to prove a CIA agent told a UFO witness not to make his information public.

5. Two possibilities for reply suggest themselves: (1) [redacted] (2) explain to Keyhoe that we do not normally provide the kind of information he wants in the absence of a reason for the inquiry and ask him why he wants to know. This might smoke out a reply leading back to his contention that a CIA agent told a UFO witness not to make public his information, and further that he has reason to believe [redacted] was the agent. Should this occur Keyhoe could then be referred to Mr. Earman's memorandum to him on 17 April 1958 which explained that Agency records had been checked and revealed that no CIA employee at any time had ordered any UFO witness to remain silent about his observation. [redacted]



6. We recommend that the second alternative above be tried first and base future action on Keyhoe's reply. A suggested draft reply is attached.

/S/

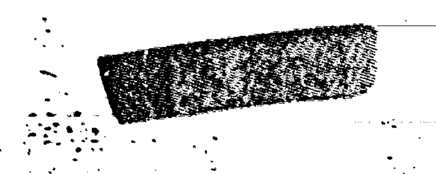
[redacted]
Chief, Contact Division
Office of Operations

Enclosures:
As Stated

cc: DAD/O

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - Case [redacted]
1 - Index (Control)


[redacted]


[redacted]

DRAFT

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret)
Director of NICAP
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Major Keyhoe:

Thank you for your letter of January 12th.

As you can readily understand we do not normally pass, outside of official channels, either affirmative or negative information in response to an inquiry such as yours. Would it be possible for you to tell us why you require the information, so that we may have a basis for an appropriate reply.

Sincerely,

J. S. Earman
Executive Officer

CI/OO:[redacted] (22 Jan 59)